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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing and screening a piezoelectric transformer apparatus including a piezoelectric member having an actuator and a generator provided in the piezoelectric member, the method comprising the steps of:

beginning manufacturing of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus ~~including the piezoelectric member having the actuator and the generator provided in the piezoelectric member;~~

connecting a load impedance to said generator;

applying a stress signal to said actuator to vibrate the piezoelectric transformer apparatus;

identifying whether the transformer apparatus has a mechanical latent defect; and

completing the manufacture of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus after the step of identifying whether the transformer apparatus has the mechanical latent defect and before the piezoelectric transformer apparatus is assembled into an electronic device.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein a vibration level of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus caused by the stress signal is within a range of a vibration level of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus in actual use to a vibration level of a fatigue limit of a reference piezoelectric transformer apparatus.

4. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the value of the load impedance is not less than about ten times an output impedance of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus.

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5. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the value of the load impedance is not more than about one tenth of an output impedance of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus.


6. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the load impedance includes a resistance element.

7. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the stress signal is a sinusoidal continuous wave.

8. (original) The method according to 1, wherein the stress signal is a sinusoidal burst wave.

9. (original) The method according to Claim 8, wherein a duty ratio of the burst wave is not more than about 10%.

10. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the piezoelectric transformer apparatus is cooled.

 11. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the piezoelectric transformer apparatus is a Rosen-type piezoelectric transformer apparatus.

12. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the piezoelectric transformer apparatus includes a single piezoelectric plate.

13. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the piezoelectric transformer apparatus includes multiple piezoelectric plates.

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14. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric transformer apparatus including a piezoelectric member having an actuator and a generator provided in the piezoelectric member, the method comprising the steps of:

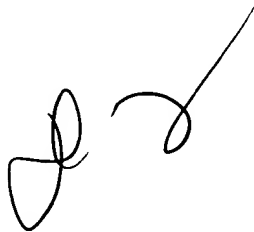
beginning manufacturing of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus ~~including the piezoelectric member having the actuator and the generator provided in the piezoelectric member;~~

testing the piezoelectric transformer apparatus for mechanical latent defects; and
completing manufacturing of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus before the piezoelectric transformer apparatus is assembled into an electronic device.

15. (original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the step of testing includes the steps of connecting a load impedance to said generator and applying a stress signal to said actuator to vibrate the piezoelectric transformer apparatus.

16. (previously amended) The method according to Claim 15, further comprising the step of identifying whether the piezoelectric transformer apparatus has the mechanical latent defect after said steps of connecting a load impedance to said generator and applying a stress signal to said actuator to vibrate the piezoelectric transformer apparatus.

17. (original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein a vibration level of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus caused by the stress signal is within a range of a vibration level of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus in actual use to a vibration level of a fatigue limit of a reference piezoelectric transformer apparatus.



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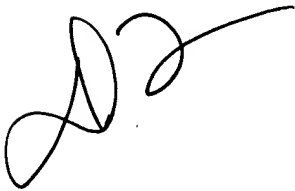
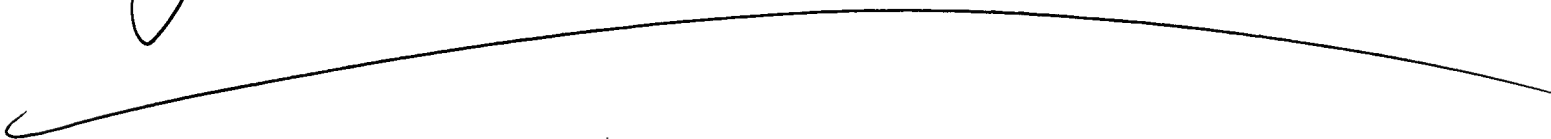
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18. (original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein the value of the load impedance is not less than about ten times an output impedance of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus.

19. (original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein the value of the load impedance is not more than about one tenth of an output impedance of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus.

20. (original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein the load impedance includes a resistance element.

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